1   **TRANSACTION DATA STRUCTURE**

2   **FOR PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS AMONG**

3   **NETWORK-DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS**

4   **CROSS-REFERENCES TO OTHER APPLICATIONS**

5   The subject matter disclosed in this application is related to subject matter

6   disclosed in concurrently filed, commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No.
     09/574,334

7   08/XXX,XXX entitled "Interaction Protocol For Managing Cross Company Processes

8   Among Network-Distributed Applications" (hereafter, "the Protocol patent application"),
     60/205,433

9   and to U.S. Patent Application No. 08/YYY,YYY entitled "Shared Transaction

10   Processing in a Clustered Process Automation Environment". These disclosures are

11   incorporated by reference herein for all that each teaches as if set out in full.

12   **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

13   The present invention relates generally to systems that manage transaction

14   processing message flow in a distributed computer network such as the Internet. In

15   particular, this invention provides a transaction processing system and method that make

16   use of a novel transaction data structure for implementing transaction processing between

17   network-distributed software applications.

18   **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

19   Business entities have long recognized that substantial productivity and marketing

20   benefits may potentially arise from conducting commercial business activities and

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